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SECRETARY BAKER SELECTS DESIGNS FOR 1988 OLYMPIC COMMEMORATIVE COINS

Washington, D.C. (January 27, 1988) Katherine D. Ortega, the Treasurer of the United States, today announced that the designs for the 1988 American Olympic Commemorative Coins have been selected by the Secretary of the Treasury, James A. Baker III. The Congress directed the Treasury to issue these coins through the 1988 Olympic Commemorative Coin Act. The Act provides for up to one million gold coins and ten million silver coins to be struck.

The obverse of the five dollar gold coin will feature the design of Elizabeth Jones, Chief Sculptor and Engraver of the United States Mint. On the reverse of the gold coin, the design of Marcel Jovine of New Jersey will be depicted. The design of Patricia Lewis Verani of New Hampshire will appear on the obverse of the one dollar silver coin. The reverse design of the silver coin will be that of Sherl J. Winter, Sculptor Engraver of the United States Mint.

The designs were chosen as the result of a limited competition in which nine distinguished artists and the Mint's staff of engravers were invited to participate.

The U.S. Treasury consulted with both the Commission of Fine Arts and the United States Olympic Committee in choosing the coin designs. Both of the organizations were provided with the designs for their review.

Production of the coins will begin in early May, 1988, immediately following a First Strike Ceremony.

Photographs of the designs are attached.

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